AN

ESSAY

For the raising a

National Fishery

BY THE

Poor of England,

WITHOUT

TAX or *MONEY*,

THAT

Shall Imploy and Maintain all the Poor, and growing Poor of this Nation for ever, and in less than Five Years, totally ease the Publick from that grievous Burden.

Humbly Address'd to the Honourable House of Commons in behalf of the Poor of *ENGLAND*.

LONDON.

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MVSEVM
BRITAN
NICVM

BRITISH MUSEUM
SALE DUPLICATE
1787

Most Wise and August

ASSEMBLY.

THE many Groundless and Chymerical Projects of this designing Age, I fear, may too justly deter the more Prudent part of Mankind from a farther Disquisition into Things of this Nature, than the bare Title informs; yet 'twould be too severe a Fate that all should undergo that Censure without a farther enquiry; for as Light came out of Darkness, so Truth may be Collected from Errour, and a great Treasure may lie hid where least expected.

I shall not presume to Apologise for the Subject treated of, 'twill best speak for it self, but do crave Pardon for the injury I have done it, by my unskilful Management; but as brightest Gold may be sullied by the touch of an unclean Hand, tho' not at all deprived of its native worth, so I

cannot by what I have done, detract from the innate Value of this ineſtimable Jewel, Fiſhery

I could have wiſht that ſome more able had undertaken this Deſign, that could have charmed your Ears with Eloquence, that might have moved, tho' Self-intereſt and Security may be allowed prevalent Motives; but as Eloquence is not my Talent, ſo it was not my Deſign, but Truth and Plainneſs, wherein I have no other Aim but to promote the publick Good to my Power, by contributing my poor Mite, nor do I ask Reward or Patronage, but with the Learned Verulam *conclude,* That nothing can be worthy of a Patronage that has not Truth to Patronize it ſelf.

I have more than once, with great regret, beyond Seas heard in Converſation, when ſpeaking of the excellency of one Conſtitution, and Parliamentary Power, they have wittily, as they thought, in way of Railkery, reply'd, and with a ſeeming Pleaſure, that there were more than one thing the Parliament of England *could not do, and that was to raiſe a Fiſhery. I thought the Aſſertion too bold, but the Reaſon they gave, was becauſe they had not done it after they declared it to be for the Honour, Advantage, and Safety of the Nation; tho' it can't be deny'd but with the high-*

eſt

oſt Concern, 'tis too true, that hitherto it has not been done, or attempted to any Purpoſe; yet there is nothing more certain than that it is in the Power and Wiſdom of an Engliſh *Parliament to effect this great Work, and convince the World of the Errour, when God ſhall pleaſe to put it in their Hearts to do it, which is with longing Deſire earneſtly expected by all true Lovers of their Countries good, and 'tis hoped that this Eſſay may ſtir up and animate ſome of our worthy Patriots to proſecute ſo honourable and advantageous a Deſign, that on this Baſis may be erected a ſuper Structure for the publick Wellfare, and Glory of God, that Fate ſhall not be able to ſhock.*

A. N.

UMI

AN ESSAY FOR THE RAISING A National Fishery.

The following Discourse is Grounded on these two Principles, *viz.*

THAT the Trade of *England* Improved. And the well Employing the Poor, are the two main Pillars, on which the Welfare and Security of this Nation (under God) Depends.

The Poor of this Kingdom may be considered in these Four Capacities.

I. As Trades Men, and Artificers, who either being too Numerous, cannot get Employment, or by decay of Trade have lost it; or not having Stock sufficient of their own to Work, nor Credit to procure it, they are rendered Poor and Necessitous by an inevitable Fate. Or they are such who

by Ill-husbandry, Losses, or both; or being thrown in to Prison, by Mercilesś and Inhuman Creditors, are brought to the greateſt Extremities, whilſt their Wives and Children become a Parish Charge. This is the too Deplorable State and Condition of many Thouſand Families, That loudly Cry for Relief.

III*ly*. As Poor Husband-men and Day-labourers, who continualy Increaſe in far greater proportion than Labour to Employ them; and muſt to ſupport Life neceſſarily be compelled to Beg or Steal, if not worſe.

IIII*ly*. As common ſturdy Beggars, and wandering Vagabonds, Men, Women and Children, who daily Increaſe and Croud the Streets; of theſe the greateſt part never did Work, nor ever will if they can avoyd it: and when by Begging they can't obtain Relief to their Deſire, they will not ſcruple to Murder, Rob, or commit any other Violence to attain it.

IV*ly*. As Aged, Decrepit, Lame, Blind, Dementated, *&c.* In a Chriſtian Common-wealth, the Law of God, of Nations, and of Nature, *viz.* ſelf Preſervation does require that all theſe Poor ſhould be taken Care of, and provided for by the Publick: Of which kind the two firſt would Work if they had it. And the third ſort, (as his Majeſty was Graciouſly pleaſed to mention in his Speech to both Houſes of Parliament) ought by compulſion to be brought to it. The fourth kind are not capable to Work themſelves, and muſt be kept without it.

The grand difficulty now will be how to find means to Imploy theſe Poor, ſo, as they may become uſeful to the Publick, by inableing them to maintain themſelves, and be no longer a burden to the Publick and Diſhonour to the Kingdom.

The Building of Work-houſes, 'tis preſumed will not reach that End, for there are many already Built about this Town Unimploy'd and Decay'd, and others that are Employ'd, but to wrong purpoſes, and ſerve only to enrich thoſe Officers belonging to them; as Bride-well and many others, that ſeem not

not in any respect to answer the end of their Institutions as well as many other Hospitals, the Poor having little benefit from thence, and granting that many more Work-houses were erected, what Work would they do in them? Beating Hemp will scarce keep them from Starving. If they Card or Spin Wool, they Interfere with those of the Woolen Manufacture, and injure them who from Children have Earned their Bread by those Labours, who now for want of Employment (some thousands) are ready to Starve, which by the Addition of so many more Hands will only make them just so much worse than they are already; for tis not want of Hands the Woolen Manufacture stands in need of; but of Work to Employ those Hands they already have: And with Submission it may be thought as good Policy, to Instruct Beggars to Plow, Sow, Reap, *&c.* and then Employ them to the prejudice of those Industrious and Necessary Husband-men we have already.

Therefore some other way must be found out, or at least attempted, that shall Employ, and furnish with Food and Necessaries, all the superfluous Hands of Poor and Necessitous Trades-men, Husband-men, Labourers, Beggars, Vagabonds, *&c.* to be an *Asylum* for all the Distressed to fly to for Releif, without infringing, or interfering on the painful Husband-men's Labour, or with the Woolen Manufacture, or any others which would prove a desperate Wound instead of a Cure; which must be effected by an other method, if ever attain'd.

Among the Various Methods that possibly may be thought on or proposed, (with humble Submission 'tis believed) there can be but one found, that will in all respects effectually answer this great End, which is not of Humane Invention, but by the providence of God is put into our Hands, if we would lift them to our Mouths; tho' for our Ingratitude to Heaven, our stuborn Blindness, Sloth and Idleness, we are unworthy of so great and peculiar a Blessing we might enjoy, above many others, that is, the FISHING TRADE.

I shall not here Illustrate on the many Advantages (besides Maintainance of the Poor) 'twould be to this Kingdom, nor mention the Disadvantages the loss of that Trade has

has brought on us, they are too obvious already, and are both Universally known and acknowledged. But how to put this great Design successfully in Practice, remains as yet the Mystery.

To the Explicating of which, I humbly offer the following Propositions or Suppositions.

First, That *English* Men being furnished with Busses and Nets, will be allowed as capable to catch Fish, and eat them, without any Hardship, as well as the *Hollanders* or any other Nation, and in many respects we have naturally the advantage of them, or any other People, for that Trade and Business.

Secondly, That those *English* Men that have not wherewith to buy Meat, the Case of too many poor honest working Families in this Town, would think it a happiness to be fed with wholesome Fish, Bread and Roots, which, without Offence, was the Diet of those Worthies, the Founders of *Amsterdam*, *Venice*, and of our own *London*, and of most other Flourishing and Trading Towns in the World.

Thirdly, 'Twill be likewise granted, that Men being now furnish't with Busses, Nets, and other Necessarys for Fishing, under a due regulation at a Publick Charge, have the same means to Live, the same Tools to Work with for the support of themselves and Families, as our fore Fathers had, tho' on much better and easier Terms, and may without doubt live and thrive as well as they did, under greater Difficulties, and this without any Fish Transported (if that were necessary) for Fish at Home will either Buy or Barter, for Bread, Meat, Cloths, Fire and all other Necessaries.

Fourthly, That naturaly there are but three ways for all Mankind to get a living, which are either Planting and Sowing the Fruits of the Earth; hunting wild Beasts, or devouring one another, or catching Fish, 'tis presumed the third kind only can be applicable to this Matter, for in the first Peo-

Peopling of all Collonies, there firſt care muſt be to clear the Ground of Trees to plant Food for their own Suſtenance, before they can arrive to greater things, ſo originally in the firſt Planting of Fiſhing Collonies, they were begun by only Fiſhing for Food, and raiſed by their redundancy, who by furniſhing others that wanted, had in Exchange or Barter all other Neceſſaries firſt, afterwards all manner of Superfluities, till in time they acquiring great Riches, Dignities, and Dominions.

This is the natural Riſe, Progreſs, and ukimate of all Fiſheries, and probably as they were all thus raiſed by degrees, there may be no other means poſſible to revive and raiſe our loſt and decay'd Fiſhery, but by the ſame means.

'Tis a Subject of the greateſt wonder to Foreigners, and Shame and Indignity to our ſelves, that *Engliſh* Men can Beg, or want Work, who may have Fiſh for catching, Roots and Pulſe for Planting, Cloths for Spinning, *&c.* yet this is too eaſily anſwered, they can't do this without Tools, nor purchaſe them without Money, nor be employ'd by thoſe that have both.

'Tis farther preſumed, that wholſome Food, warm Cloths, and Hurs to ſecure from Cold and Weather, are all the Poor ſtand in need of.

There Women and Children may be Employ'd in Knitting Nets, Spinning Thread, *&c.* whilſt the Men are Fiſhing, Carrying and Recarrying. Sir *Walter Raleigh* affirming that every Fiſhing Ship ſets to work Thirty ſeveral Trades and Occupations, and eight Thouſand Perſons by Sea and Land, and that three hundred Perſons are not able to make one Fleet of Nets in four Months for one Buſs.

That to allure them to Induſtry and a regular Life, among this new Common-wealth of Fiſhers, they ſhould be incouraged to Marry among themſelves, and be endowed with ſome Privileges and Immunities, the more they multiply the greater the Bleſſing, for they can never want Food and Neceſſaries till they have drained the Sea of Fiſh. This would prevent the

Murder of many poor Infants, and check the many Robberies and Murders that are daily committed, and would re-people the Sea Coast round the Kingdom, repair all our old decay'd Fishing Towns, and build many new ones; and asking Pardon for the Expression, do affirm, that a Wall of *Fishing-Nets* round *England*, would be a much better Defence and Security to the Nation, than Fryer *Bacon*'s Brazen Wall would have been, could his Art have done it.

It remains now to shew how this great and glorious Work may be put in Practice, so as successfully to accomplish this great End without Tax, or additional Expence to the Publick, which 'tis presumed will make it worth the Trial, and this to be done by a right application of the Poors Revenue, which heitherto hath been wrongly disposed of, and to little purpose, either for the common Good, or comfort of the Poor.

The due Care, Government, and Management of the Poor, is the great concern of the Publick and its Ministers and Magistrates, are not without great reason Stiled the Fathers of the Poor, to put them in mind that they should cherish and nourish them as Children, for how Paradoxical soever it may seem, the Hands of the Poor are the true and real Riches, Strength, Security and Blessing of a Kingdom, when rightly employ'd, and the Bain, Curse, Plague and Ruine of a Nation, when idle of themselves, or maintained so, or which is Equivolent, employ'd to no purpose.

To come closer to the Matter: The yearly Revenue of the Poor is Estimated at about 800000 *l.* and probably if it were nicely enquired into may be found a Million; now supposing this great Revenue be paid yearly for the future, as it has been for many Years past, and is still growing; and if not prevented must encrease for ever, and that this Money be employ'd to the Poors use as now, 'twould be well worth knowing what good 'twould do them, or what Benefit either Poor or Publick would receive in proportion to such a mass of Treasure raised and buried, without any visible appearance of publick Good, nor the tenth part of the

the Poor provided for. Now if to accompliſh this glorious Enterprize of raiſing and eſtabliſhing a Fiſhery on an immoveable and ſolid Baſis; there were required, 20, 30, 40, or a 100 Years, and that the yearly income of the Poor for that time were required to do it, that is, 20, 30, 40, or a 100 Millions, if the end I ſay were then attained, tho' on theſe Terms (if not to be effected otherwiſe) 'twill, I doubt not, be allowed the Money was well imployed and diſpoſed of to good purpoſe; ſince 'twould for the future free them or their Poſterity from the burden and charge of the Poor, without the addition of any new Tax for their relief, and the Money would circulate among the Handicraft and Trading People, to the great improvement of the Woollen Manufacture, and others, and would beſides raiſe ſome Hundred Thouſand Seafaring Men, and repeople the Sea Coaſts and Fiſhing Towns, *&c.* whereas in the uſual Courſe this Money is now imploy'd, it ſcarce ſerves to buy Food for half tis given to, and the reſt are left to ſhift for it as they can get it.

If then, as aforeſaid, a Fiſhery tho' obtained in ſo long time, and at ſo great expence, would be well worth the attaining, how much more then, ought thoſe generous offers to be embrac'd, that fairly lays down a demonſtrative Method, that ſhall in five Years and leſs, raiſe and eſtabliſh an everlaſting Fiſhery to maintain all the Poor, and growing Poor for ever, by their own Labour, and to become a Bullwark and Defence of this Kingdom, by raiſing ſo many thouſand Seafaring Men, improving Navigation and all Trades, and Manufacturies, and making this Nation the moſt Rich, Potent and Flouriſhing Kingdom on Earth.

A Draught or Scheme of the Deſign in general Terms is thus Propoſed; with ſubmiſſion to better Judgments.

That a Million Credit be raiſed on the Revenue of the poor, to be paid in two Years, which can be no difficulty to do, ſince the Fund and Security is as good as any in *England*, and well diſpoſed Perſons on ſuch an Occaſion, will be contented with modetate Intereſt, and poſſibly the Bank of *England* may to promote ſo pious and honourable

a Deſign ſignalize themſelves on ſuch an Occaſion, there being no neceſſity to draw the Money all at once, but as 'tis diſpoſed of.

That 200000 *l.* of this Money be appointed to build a thouſand Buſſes and Boats, at 200 *l.* per Buſs.

That 200000 *l.* more be employed for Hemp or Thred for Nets, and what other Materials relate to their fiſhing Tackle.

That 200000 *l.* be appropriated to Cloath a Hundred thouſand poor Men and Women able to Work, with their Children at 2 *l.* per Man.

That 100000 *l.* be deſign'd for Conveniencies for them to lie on, *&c.*

That 100000 *l.* more be apply'd to build Chappels, Warehouſes to ſtore their Corn and Fiſh in, and for Cask, *&c.*

That a 100000 *l.* be laid out for Corn, and for Salt to cure their Herrings.

That the 100000 *l.* remaining, be appropriated to Fiſhermen, the Maſters of Buſſes and Mates, who are to inſtruct them, and to Clergy-men, Clerks, Warehouſe-Keepers, Coopers, and all other Officers there ſhall be need of, for the due and regular Execution of this great Undertaking.

That theſe 100000 Poor be diſperſt into a 100 ſeveral places round the Coaſt, a thouſand in a place, to be firſt planted in and about the decay'd Fiſhing Towns, which will occupy a far greater number.

There will be ten Buſſes to every new Fiſhing Settlement, and to each Buſs there is at preſent aſſign'd but a 100 poor beſides Children, tho' 'twould maintain more than a 1000 well imploy'd.

That thoſe Hundred Poor belonging to each Buſs, Men and Women, become bound for five Years, the Men and Boys to the Maſters of Buſſes, to inſtruct them in the Art of Fiſhing, and the Women and Girls to thoſe that ſhall inſtruct them to Spin Thread, and Knit Nets, *&c.*

The Boys and Girls to be bound for a longer time, the Maſters being paid for their Service, to lie under no Obligation to furniſh them with Cloths, Meat or other Neceſſaries, but only to inſtruct them how to Fiſh; and being thus ſet out and furniſh'd

nish't with Materials, 'tis presumed there will be no danger of their Starving, and no doubt will find themselves with Drink, and be able to do something more than keep themselves in a very little time.

The five Years Service expired, besides their Food, to be allowed some Pay for their Labour, out of the Profits of the Fishery.

That they be Fed four Days in a Week, with Bread, wholsome Fish, either Fresh or Salt, with Roots, as Turnips, Carrots, Parsnips, Potatoes, *&c.* And the other three Days, with Meat, either Beef, or Pork, with Pease or Roots: That it be no longer an Injunction on them, to eat Fish four Days in a Week, than till they have raised sufficient Stock to purchase Flesh, and reduce their Fish Days to twice a Week.

That all Aged and Decrepit Poor, *&c.* Unable to Work, be confined to their own Parishes, (the greatest part being in *London*) and not suffered to Beg, but that Provision of Red and Pickled Herrings be sent from the Fisheries, to their respective Parish-Officers, either to dispose of to them, or for them, for other Provisions, according to an exact account of their Numbers, which, together with the Collection of Broken Meats by the Poor in Baskets, in their several Parishes and distributed, will abundantly Maintain them better than now they are.

That no Person be permitted to Beg, or any suffered to Relieve them in the Streets, but if found there, to be sent to one or other of the Fishing-Collonies to Work if able, if not, to their own Parish, that they, and all other Poor that voluntarily come, be provided with Food, first for Work, and afterwards with Clothes when they have Earned them.

That in one Year this Design may be compleatly put in Practice, all the Busses, Ware-houses, and Chappels Built, and Nets made, and the Poor immediately set to Work, for the Money taken up on Credit, not being Payable till

two Years end, the Poor will have the ſame Proviſion for this Year, as uſual to Maintain them whilſt they are Knitting Nets, &c. and till the Fiſhery be actually ſet to Work, which may be done in part, the next Herring-Seaſon, if from *Lady-Day* they ſhould commence.

What hitherto has been ſaid, has only Deſigned the capacitating the Poor to Maintain themſelves, but now 'tis time to ſpeak what farther may be done by them, to the great encreaſe of the Publick Treaſure, and promotion of Trade in general.

First, That the Buſineſs of this Publick-Fiſhery, be only the Herring and Pilchard Fiſhing; and not permitted to Sell any of them at home, to prejudice thoſe Induſtrious and Labourious Fiſher-men we have already, who otherwiſe would be Ruined by this Deſign,

2. That they intermeddle not with the *Newfound-land* nor Whale-Fiſhing, to the Detriment of thoſe Fiſhers and Merchants that uſe thoſe Trades, but be only employed in Fiſhing on our own Coaſts, provided the Merchants be not too ſlack on theſe Encouragements to Proſecute thoſe Trades; or Whale and Cod-Fiſhing may be the Buſineſs of the Royal-Fiſhery.

3. That great Care be taken, by diligent Inſpection, that the Fiſh be Caught when beſt in Seaſon only; and that none but ſweet and good Herrings be Cured, and that after the beſt manner, and all made Good and Merchantable Ware.

4. That the Poor being firſt ſerved, what remains to be expoſed to Sale, and for the Encouragement of Merchants, to export them beyond Seas, to be Sold at very reaſonable Rates, or Bartered for Hemp, Salt, Corn, &c.

5. That all Profits ariſing above the Poors Proviſion, be the publick Treaſure, and applicable as ſhall be appointed by Parliament, which if they are pleaſed, may be aſſigned for the Planting of Timber, ſo much wanted in *England*;

Or

or the Rebuilding *White-Hall*, and to make it the moſt Stately and Magnificent Palace in the World in five Years time, and that without any Tax.

6. That the *Engliſh* Red-Herrings are the Beſt in the World, and a good Commodity in all Places.

7. That for a farther Encouragement of this Fiſhery, and to promote Trade, if it ſhould pleaſe the Parliament to lay a Reſtriction on the *Iriſh* Fiſhing, that is, on their Herring and Pilchard Fiſhing only; for we ought to be rather more jealous, and careful to prevent the growth of A Fiſhery any where to our Power, than of the Woolen Manufacture, becauſe one will ſecure the other. That by this means great quantities of Herrings would be Tranſported to *Ireland*, and in return, they might bring Tallow, Hides, Corn, *&c.* but principally Wool, which would greatly improve the Woolen Manufacture, for the fundamental Cauſe of the decay of that great Trade, is the very ſame by which the Fiſhery is loſt and ruined; that is, Foreigners ſell Fiſh better Cheap than we can, which is the true Reaſon of the loſs of that Trade, and 'tis to be feared, if not prevented, their ſlight making and dreſſing their Cloth, their exceſſive Straining and Racking to lengthen it, and many other Knaviſh Practices in that Trade, more than formerly, may in time bring it to the ſame Fate, Foreigners being diſcouraged to Buy it, not daring to truſt them, have put them on Invention to make better themſelves, and Sell Cheaper, notwithſtanding they have the greateſt part of the Wool from hence.

Therefore, unleſs Care be taken that Cloth be well and truly made, without Deceit, and by plenty of Wool made Cheaper, it ſeems very unlikely for them ever to retrieve their almoſt loſt Trade, for they cannot leſſen the Price of Mens Labour to do it, that being but ſufficient when employed to maintain them.

8 That if the Merchants ſlight and neglect the Benefit of Buying up the Poors Herrings, being Good and Merchantable Ware, and to Tranſport them to all parts of the World, where ever any were carried, and to our own Plantations, *&c.* and in return, to bring Salt, *&c.* that then they be ſent by Veſſels of their own, and diſpoſed of for the beſt advantage for the Publick; for no People on Earth can under-ſel or foreſtal us in any Market, for we have the

Fiſh

Fiſh for Catching, and may if we pleaſe, give them away and be no Loſers, for the Money that raiſes thoſe Fiſh, Maintains the Poor, without the Sale of them.

It may not be amiſs, to ſhew what immenſe Riches are gained by an Induſtrious People, that will Fiſh and well know the Benefit of it, from what Sr. *Walter Rawleigh* ſays of them in his time, tho' much improved ſince.

He ſays, that in four Towns in the *Sound*, viz. *Quinbrough*, *Elbing*, *Stetten*, and *Dantzick*, there are Vended in a Year, between 30 and 40 Thouſand Laſt of Herrings, at 15 or 16*l.* the Laſt, that is about Six hundred and Twenty thouſand Pounds Sterling, and we ſend none thither; beſides, *Denmark*, *Norway*, *Sweden*, *Leifland*, *Rie*, *Nevil*, the *Narve*, and other Port Towns within the Sound, there are carried above Ten thouſand Laſt of Herrings, at 15 or 16*l. per* Laſt, is a Hundred and ſixty thouſand Pounds more Yearly: And in ſuch requeſt are the Herrings taken in our Seas there, that they are often Sold for 20 24 30 and 36 Pounds *per* Laſt, and we ſend not one Barrel into all thoſe Eaſt Countries.

They ſend into *Ruſſia* near Fifteen hundred Laſts of Herrings, at about 30*l per* Laſt, is Twenty ſeven thouſand Pounds. To *Stroad*, *Hambrough*, *Bremen*, and *Embs*, are Vended of Herrings, about Six thouſand Laſts, at 15 or 16*l. per* Laſt, is a Hundred thouſand Pounds more, and we none at all.

To *Cleaveland*, *Gulickland*, up the River *Rhine* to *Collen*, *Francfort* on the Main, and over all *Germany*, is carried Twenty two thouſand Laſts of Herrings, *&c.* ſold at 20*l. per* Laſt, is Four hundred and forty thouſand Pounds, and we none.

Up the River *Maze* to *Leige*, *Maſtricht*, *Wendlow*, *Zutphen*, *Daventer*, *Campen*, *Swool*, and all *Liefland*, Seven thouſand Laſts of Herrings, at 20*l. per* Laſt, is a Hundred and Forty thouſand Pounds, and we none.

To *Gilderland*, *Artois*, *Hanault*, *Brabant*, *Flanders*, to *Antwerp*, &c. Nine thouſand Laſts, at 18*l. per* Laſt, is a Hundred and ſixty thouſand Pounds.

To *Roan*, only in one Year, (beſides all other parts of *France*) Fifty thouſand Laſts of Herrings, at 20*l. per* Laſt, is one Million of Pounds, they are ſold often there, for 24 and 30 Pounds the Laſt. Between *Chriſtmas* and *Lent*, the Duties for Fiſh and Herrings, came to Fifteen thouſand Crowns

Crowns at *Roan*; he farther ſays, that the number of Laſts of Herrings brought to *Danzick*, *Collen*, *Rotterdam*, and *Enchuſen*, &c. is ſo great, as it will coſt more than 3, 4, or 5 Pounds for a true Note.

Beſides theſe Places already mention'd, they have great Trade to *Portugal*, *Spain*, and up the *Straits*, inſomuch that at this time 'tis by ſeveral Authors affirm'd that the Fiſhery brings them in nigh 20 Millions per Annum.

How much this Fiſhery propoſed will amount to in a Year or two's time above the Poors Maintainance, cannot eaſily be eſtimated till put in practice, but that we may have ſome light in that caſe, 'tis obſervable that Sir *Walter Raleigh* ſays the *Hollanders* did yearly, with 3000 Buſſes, raiſe that prodigious Maſs of Treaſure, before mention'd, and imploy'd 9000 other Ships and Veſſels, and 150000 Perſons by Sea and Land, to make Proviſion, to Cure and Tranſport the Fiſh they took in one Seaſon, but now 'tis much greater; ſince then a Fiſhery is ſo deſirable a thing, a Jewel of ſuch ineſtimable value, and an inexhauſtable Treaſure, and has been ſo declared by Parliaments, and by common conſent of all Learned and publick ſpirited Men, confirmed by daily experience under our own Noſes, and heartily wiſht for by all.

What miſchievous Fate, or what ſhall I call it, hinders a matter of ſuch Conſequence for the Honour, Riches and ſafety of the Kingdom, to paſs from time to time unattempted and unregarded, ſeems little leſs than a Miracle? 'Tis too obſervable, that laſt Year, whilſt ſome were talking of a Fiſhery here, the *French* actually ſent Five hundred Sail to *Newfoundland* to catch Fiſh: That poſſibly, without Preſumption it may be affirmed, if ever a Fiſhery be raiſed in *England*, and ſucceſsfully carried on, it muſt be by the Poor and their Revenue; for all other Fiſheries that may be undertaken with joint Stocks, as the *Royal Fiſhery*, &c. can do nothing in this Caſe, becauſe their Fund once gone, either by ill management, Loſſes or the Extravagant Sallaries of Officers, Charge of Warehouſes, Ships and Seamen *&c.* they muſt of neceſſity break, and time alone with their beſt management would effect their Ruine; whereas the other has a yearly Supply for its ſupport, if it were neceſſary to continue it, nor can they catch Fiſh ſo cheap, nor ſell them ſo good cheap as others in Foreign Markets, nor ſell them at home, and therefore muſt dwindle to

nothing, as all attempts of this kind hitherto has done, and ever will till they attain the Art to catch Fish without Money, and sell them for nothing, when they please, which seems a Paradox, yet is a real Truth. For 'tis catching Fish without Money, in regard there's no more Money paid for the raising this Fishery, than would be if it were let alone, nor any one compell'd to Fish that has any thing else to do, nor to eat them but such as have not wherewith to buy Meat, and if those won't catch Fish when they may, and eat them when they have done, e'en let them starve a Gods Name. The Poors Revenue is a kind of Rent-Charge, claim'd by Custome, and paid time out of Mind, or a Debt intail'd on the Publick from Generation to Generation as a reward of Folly, ill Husbandry and Indiscretion on one side, and of Laziness, Idleness, and starving Beggary on the other.

To conclude, the letting the Poor into any Manufactury that have not been brought up to it, must be of pernicious Consequence to the Publick, by injuring others whose Business 'tis already, and are in want of employ, for the multiplying of Hands to Work will be found but an odd Improvement, unless the Consumption be made much greater, for 'tis taking Bread from those that have it, and giving it to Beggars, or the increase of Beggars in one place to set them to work at another, and would still encrease Poverty *ad Infinitum*, but of the great Riches, Strength, and many Benefits a Fishery would bring to Rich and Poor there's scarcely any.

F I N I S.

POSTSCRIPT.

THAT this Essay being committed to the Press, and the greatest part Composed, before the Order of the Honourable House of Commons, *Lunæ* 11. *Martii* 1699, relating to the *Royal Fishery*.

The Author desires to be excused for some Expressions therein that may now seem Superfluous.

E R R A T A.

Page 2. l. 2. read *A Fishery*, the same page l. 17. for *one* read *our*, page 3. l. 6. for *the* read *that*.